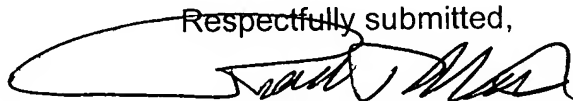


Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend the claims in accordance with the New Amendment Format announced in the pre-OG notice dated January 31, 2003. The amendments herein were implemented in order to place the claims in ideal condition for U.S. prosecution. No new matter was added.

Entry of the subject amendments prior to the initial examination of the present application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph J. Mancini', is written over a horizontal line.

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